

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap comprising:

sealing member for sealing the opening of a reagent vessel;

a pressurizing member linked to a retaining part for the sealing member to bring the sealing member in close contact with the opening all the time, wherein when pressure is applied, the pressurizing member lifts the sealing member against the biasing force of itself to open the vessel and, when the pressure is eliminated, the pressurizing member returns to position by the biasing force to close the vessel by the sealing member; ~~wherein~~

a long housing attached to the part of an outer periphery of the cap integrally and laterally, and having an opening at a top of the housing, wherein the housing is constructed such that symmetric shaft bearings formed in the side walls of the housing apart from the cap are horizontal long holes to allow an arm of the pressurizing member to be slightly moved to and fro with the rotation of the pressurizing member supported by the shaft bearings;

wherein the sealing member, the retaining part, and the pressurizing member are capable of mounting to the opening of the vessel containing a reagent.

2 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 1, wherein the reagent vessel is ~~self-supported~~ able to stand without any support and ~~is shaped like~~ has a shape of a long and narrow trapezoid in plan view, and has a cylindrical opening having a male screw around the outer periphery of the reagent vessel at one end of the top of the reagent vessel and an engaging plate projecting from ~~[[the]]~~ an other end of the reagent vessel.

3 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 1, wherein the sealing member is formed of a disk-shaped elastic body in general view and integrally has an engaging protrusion in the center of the top, the protrusion having a bulge portion for preventing falling-off at ~~[[the]]~~ an end of the protrusion.

4 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 1, wherein the retaining part ~~is shaped like~~ has a shape of an inverse cup in general view and integrally has a through hole in the center of ~~[[the]]~~ a top of the retaining part for receiving the engaging protrusion of the sealing member and integrally has a connecting part extending horizontally at part thereof.

5 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 4, wherein the connecting part has a recessed cutout part at ~~[[the]]~~ an end of the connecting part and integrally has side plates extending downward vertically on the back of the opposite sides of the cutout part, a shaft support on the each side plate at symmetric ~~position~~ positions and a cylindrical or round-rod-like connecting shaft therebetween.

6 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 1, wherein the pressurizing member has an engagement retaining part for engaging and retaining ~~[[the]]~~ a connecting shaft of ~~[[the]]~~ a connecting part, at ~~[[the]]~~ an end of an arm having a ~~slight~~ chevron shape in general view, seen from the side of the arm; shaft supports in symmetric positions on ~~[[the]]~~ a side of ~~[[the]]~~ a base end ~~thereof~~ of the arm; and an elastic arc-shaped arm-supporting member is integrally formed toward the end, on the back near the shaft support.

7 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 6, wherein the arm has a hemispherical bulge portion on ~~[[the]]~~ a surface of a chevron shaped top of the arm.

8 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 1, wherein the cap is ~~shaped like~~ has a shape of a hollow cylinder having a female screw around the inner periphery, the female screw being in engagement with a male screw of the vessel ~~and integrally has a~~ laterally long housing at part of the outer periphery, the housing having an opening at the top.

9 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim ~~[[8]]~~ 5, wherein the housing comprises recessed shaft bearings for receiving shaft supports of the connecting part in opposing side walls near the cap and recessed shaft bearings for receiving ~~[[the]]~~ shaft supports of the arm that constitutes the pressurizing member in the side walls apart from ~~the cap body a~~ body of the cap, respectively.

10 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to Claim 8, wherein the housing integrally includes an undersurface on ~~the~~ an inner bottom of the housing, which ~~is~~ always in contact with ~~[[the]]~~ an end of an arm support member of the pressurizing member, a pair of flexible plates that comes into engagement with a retaining plate formed on the vessel for positioning on ~~the back~~ the outer bottom of the housing, and a leg for supporting the housing on the vessel.

11 (Canceled).

12 (Currently Amended): A reagent vessel cap according to any one of Claims 8 to ~~[[11]]~~ 10, wherein the cap and the housing are molded in one piece of plastic.

13 (Currently Amended): A method for collecting a reagent, comprising the steps of:
arranging a sealing member attached to a retaining part for a sealing member on the
opening of a vessel containing a reagent;

setting horizontal long holes of symmetric shaft bearings formed in the side walls apart
from a cap to allow an arm to be slightly moved to and fro with a rotation of a pressurizing
member supported by the shaft bearings;

tightly sealing the opening with the sealing member by the biasing force of [[an]] a
pressurizing member linked with the retaining part to shield the reagent from outside air;

pushing the pressurizing member against the urging force to move slightly the arm and
rotate the linked retaining part upward, thereby opening the vessel; and
collecting the reagent.